



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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### **President's 2008 NPS Budget Proposes \$1,005,000 in Increased Funding for Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

**Brecksville, Ohio** - The President's \$2.4 billion National Park Service proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008 calls for \$1,005,000 in new funding for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This funding includes funding for 16 new seasonal employees in interpretation, maintenance, and visitor and resource protection; sustaining core operations in interpretation, education, and maintenance; and increased volunteer coordination.

"We are thrilled to see that the President's budget proposal for 2008 would help restore operating funding levels for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The additional based funding would go a long way to ensure that we can adequately maintain and protect park resources and ensure a quality visitor experience," park superintendent John P. Debo, Jr.

The funding that may come to Cuyahoga Valley National Park would support the following:

- \$260,000 would support interpretation and education. It would be directed towards youth programs, programs to attract new audiences, ranger- led programs and visitor contacts, and use of new technologies such as web casts and cell phone tours.
- \$314,000 would allow the National Park Service to continue to maintain park facilities to a high standard. The park has a large inventory of facilities that includes over 240 historic buildings, 125 miles of trails, complex utility systems, and the 51- mile Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.
- \$85,000 would support visitor & resource protection functions. It would be directed towards additional patrol coverage during peak visitor periods, increased management of special events and park permits, monitoring archaeological sites and historic resources, and increased patrols to protect natural resources from encroachments and poaching.
- \$48,000 would promote growth of the Volunteer In Parks program through increased administrative and program support.
- \$298,000 would cover increases in fixed personnel costs.

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In addition to these increases to the park's operating budget, the FY2008 budget proposal includes the Centennial Initiative, which would provide \$100 million a year for the next ten years to match donations for signature projects and programs. This is the first financial infusion for the President's Initiative to ready America's parks for the 2016 Centennial of the National Park Service. Parks like Cuyahoga Valley National Park would be able to compete for these funds and work with park partners to secure the matching funds. "This national park is well positioned to take advantage of this potential source of funding," Debo said. "We have an excellent network of partnerships that give us the opportunity to find creative ways to tap these funds. The Centennial Initiative, spearheaded by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and new National Park Service Director Mary Bomar, holds huge promise for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the entire National Park System."

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